Klar Officially Begins His Race for Pike's Seat

North Bellport-S ven Klar, a lawyer and the owner of a real-estate firm, oTficially announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for the First Congressional District yesterday.

Klar made his announcement at an outdoor press conference in front of a neat but abandoned home in a North Bellport development that he said symbolized many of the district's problems.

"I care about Long Island," Klar said. "I care about its beauty, its opportunities, and its future. I am disturbed and angry to see the middle-class families who have sacrificed so much to build a decent place to live being driven from their homes and life's work." Klar said, if he is elected, his goals in office will be: to preserve homes and jobs in the district, promote local economic development ana produce general tax relief and reform.

Klar said he commissioned Patrick Caddell, political pollster and presidential adviser, to conduct a poll of the district in May. Klar said the poll showed that residents believe that taxes, jobs and inflation are the major problems facing the area.

Klar, 31, lives in Port Jefferson and is the owner of Klar Realty. A political newcomer, he is the fourth Democrat to announce his candidacy for the seat being vacated by Rep. Otis Pike CD-Riverhead).

Caddell's poll also indicated that, despite Brookhaven Supervisor John Randolph's status as the "favorite," the Democratic primary is "wide open," Klar said in a preBli release. The other Democratic candidates are Patrick Russell of Mastic Beach and John Cassese of Patchogue. Klar's brother and campaign manager, Ronald, would not release a copy of the poll.

Klar is expected to spend a good part of his own money on the race, but he declined yesterday to set a figure for the cost of his primary. Klar has opened a campaign headquarters in the Coram Shopping Plaza on Middle Country Road in Coram and has begun collecting signatures to secure a spot on tht ballot for the St:pt."12 primary. -Amanda Harris

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